

Report to:	CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Relevant Officer:	Paul Turner, Assistant Director – Education, SEND and Early Years
Date of Meeting:	24 March 2022

SEND STRATEGY UPDATE

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To consider an update on the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Strategy.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 For the Scrutiny Committee to have oversight and input into the Council’s SEND Strategy.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 To ensure Scrutiny involvement in the SEND Strategy.

3.2 Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.3 Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council’s approved budget? Yes

4.0 Other alternative options to be considered:

4.1 None.

5.0 Council priority:

5.1 The relevant Council priority is:

- Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience.

6.0 Background information

6.1 Significant work/audit has been completed in the SEND service since September 2021. A number of pieces of work that need to be completed have been identified:

- Systemic change to further enhance inclusion across providers, building on good partnership work already started for ‘hard to place pupils’.

- Developing services which are genuinely co-produced with parents/carers.
- Increased joining up between key partners, so that the Council's needs analysis and self-assessment informs joint commissioning priorities.
- Publishing a clear partnership SEND Strategy with quantifiable targets for improvement.
- Continue to improve the local offer, building on the good work already done.
- Ensure the Council's impartial service for advice to parents (SENDIASS) is compliant with nationally agreed standards.
- Develop an outcome improvement plan for the SEND service.
- Embed the new models for quality assurance and decision-making processes.
- Improve the Council's use of data and intelligence to monitor and improve performance.
- Enhance mechanisms to capture the feedback from parents, carers and young people about Council services and what difference they have made.

6.2 Revised SEND strategy -

The revised SEND strategy as a draft document is now available and will be open to comment and consultation until the end of May 2022. The Strategy has been attached at Appendix 7(a) for the consideration of the Committee.

6.3 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

7.0 List of Appendices:

7.1 Appendix 7(a) – Draft SEND Strategy.

8.0 Financial considerations:

8.1 Ensuring that the SEND team and associated systems are within budget is essential.

9.0 Legal considerations:

9.1 Blackpool Council has a statutory duty to provide enough SEND places and to ensure that the quality of SEND provision is of a good quality.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 There is significant risk if SEND provision is not of a good standard.

11.0 Equalities considerations:

11.1 SEND is a statutory responsibility and there is a significant impact upon individuals and families if services cannot be provided to a high enough standard.

12.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:

12.1 None.

13.0 Internal/external consultation undertaken:

13.1 A SEND consultation was conducted earlier in this financial year.

14.0 Background papers:

14.1 2020-2030 Education Strategy.
Inclusion Strategy.